

interzero[®]
zero waste solutions



GAME CHANGERS

Shaping the circular economy

SHAPING CHANGE TOGETHER



”

WORKING AS A TEAM TO CREATE A TRULY CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Can you feel the winds of change? Across Europe, companies are transforming their business models with a focus on sustainability. New laws and regulations are pushing the circular economy to the top of the agenda. Now more than ever, we need innovative strategies and closer cross-border collaboration between all stakeholders. As one of Europe's leading providers of circular solutions, Interzero brings these players together – and introduces new solutions. We support our customers on their path to genuine sustainability, working together to build a future-ready circular economy in Europe.

Who are the game changers? In our new sustainability magazine, we introduce the people, ideas and technologies that are redefining roles, setting new standards, and enabling more effective climate action and resource conservation. Read on to discover, for example, how the Lufthansa Group manages to be 'Ready for Recycling' even

at 30,000 feet. Find out why Mathis Wackernagel of the Global Footprint Network believes the circular economy offers a genuine competitive advantage, and how Interzero's digital tools help companies take control of their sustainability data.

In business, as in sport, we believe in the power of teamwork. By working together, we can turn challenges into opportunities and score points by creating lasting value. We look forward to exchanging ideas with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Axel Schweitzer', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Axel Schweitzer

Chairman and Shareholder, Interzero

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CHANGING OUR MINDSET FOR A BETTER FUTURE



Mathis Wackernagel, Founder of Global Footprint Network, and Sybilla Merian, Head of Sustainability at Interzero, discuss how we can push back Earth Overshoot Day and why circular business models pay off.

Sybilla Merian: As humans, we consume too many resources, and this is endangering our entire basis of our long-term survival. Can we still make the switch to sustainability, and what do we need to do to make this a reality?

Mathis Wackernagel: First and foremost, we need an entirely new mindset. Right now, sustainability is often seen as a noble gesture, when in fact it is an absolute necessity. We fail to recognise that sustainable action is not only crucial for humanity, but also essential for our own businesses or cities if we want to keep functioning. Our current way of operating — financed by ecological overshoot — creates a shortage of resources and exacerbates climate change. This overshoot cannot last. It will end — either by design or by disaster. That's the choice.

Sybilla Merian: What does this mean for businesses?

Mathis Wackernagel: The guiding question is: what will be valuable? What will be operational in a foreseeable future shaped by climate change and resource constraints? Products, services and companies that, as they expand, reduce global overshoot will be particularly valuable. Take circular companies dedicated to reusing and recycling materials, for example — they reduce global overshoot even more as they grow. Anyone who eases the pressure on the planet while growing will be increasingly in demand. They will therefore have a competitive advantage.

Sybilla Merian: Many of our customers are asking themselves how they can meet their demand for resources while at the same time easing the burden on our environment. This is virtually impossible without a strong circular economy that keeps resources in the loop for as long as possible. While Interzero's work as a circular solutions provider is fundamentally needed in a sustainable future, we also face the ongoing challenge of effectively measuring our specific contribution to resource conservation. That is why we work with research institutes to bring greater transparency and clarity to this issue — including Global Footprint Network and its ecological footprint metric.



We should not associate sustainability with 'noble', but with 'necessary'.

Dr Mathis Wackernagel
Founder and President, Global Footprint Network

Mathis Wackernagel: This metric allows us to analyse how much a company is reducing (or adding to) global ecological overshoot per million euros of added value. The global economy requires 2 square metres of biologically productive space to generate one euro value add per year. In the case of Interzero, we estimated, based on data provided by the company, that for every euro value generated annually, global overshoot is reduced by 32 square metres, 15 times more than the global average, and in the right direction. Such insights are helping businesses make better investment decisions. It serves a similar purpose to the instruments on a car's dashboard: How fast am I going? How much fuel is in the tank? And how far can I go with it? Many companies see sustainability data as little more than a compliance requirement or regulatory burden, and treat it far too defensively. Yet this is a strategic issue: How far can I go in my "car" when faced with ecological overshoot and a shortage of resources?



We can achieve great things with strong partners who share common goals.

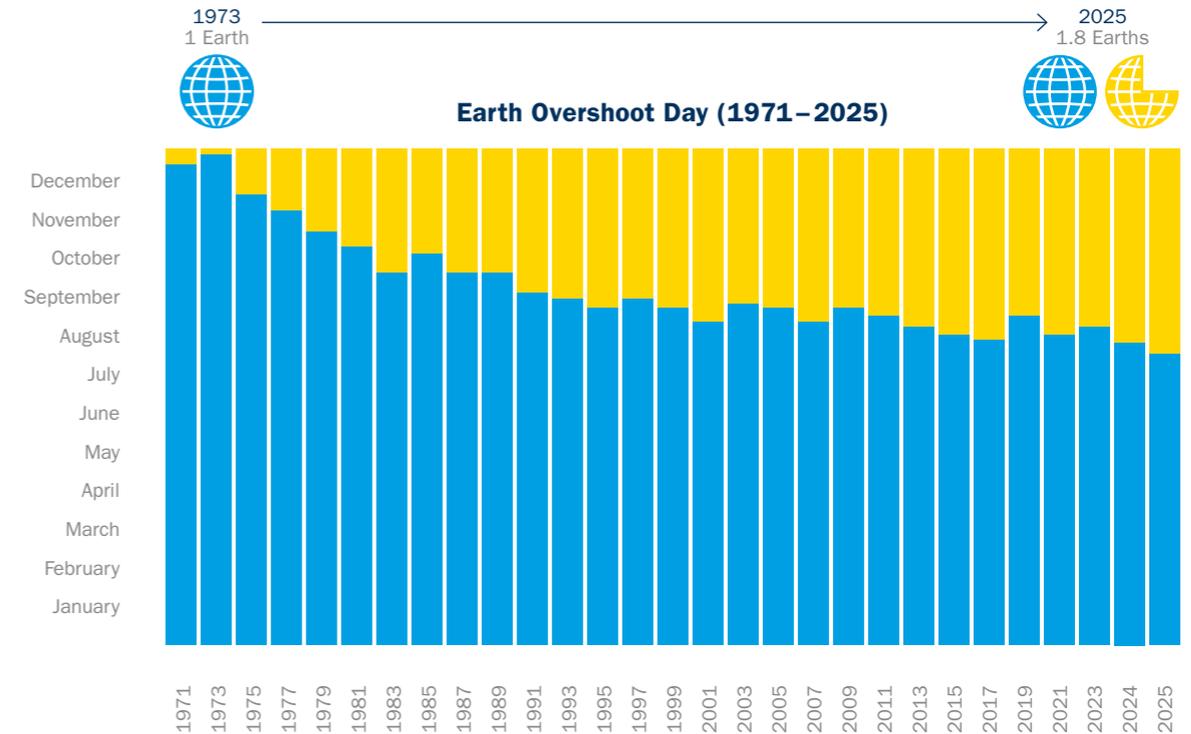
Sybilla Merian
Head of Sustainability, Interzero

7:12 minutes

Every minute counts

Earth Overshoot Day is a stark reminder that humanity is living beyond its means. Calculations show that by 24 July 2025, all the natural resources the planet can regenerate in a single year will have been used up. Recycling makes a measurable contribution to easing this pressure on our planet – and without Interzero's efforts, Earth Overshoot Day in 2024 would have occurred 7 minutes and 12 seconds earlier.*

*Calculation by the Global Footprint Network based on the Fraunhofer study "resources SAVED by recycling".



Source: Global Footprint Network

Sybilla Merian: This was an eye-opener for us as well. By calculating Interzero's impact on Earth Overshoot Day, we are able to demonstrate our contribution in a single, succinct figure for the first time. Based on the results you mentioned, our services help push Earth Overshoot Day back by 7 minutes and 12 seconds. This means: the more we do, the more we protect our planet. It gives us both a starting point and an incentive to work with our partners, customers and employees to increase our contribution year after year.

Mathis Wackernagel: Collaborating with companies like Interzero is exciting for us. By working together, we can show that the impact of a company is measurable. We can also demonstrate what is possible – and help businesses see that striving for sustainability is becoming a driver of value. Unfortunately, many people still have a blind spot in this area and are convinced that sustainability always comes at a cost. With that in mind, it's

clear that our society needs two ingredients to be effective and sustainable: First, we need resources. Businesses, cities and countries – in fact, everything that physically exists – cannot function without them. Second, we need trust. We can only work together and shape the future effectively if we trust one another.

Sybilla Merian: I totally agree. We can bring about real change and achieve great things as a collective, with strong partners who share common goals. Through the Let's #MoveTheDate campaign, we are intentionally fostering a circular economy movement with a positive and dynamic spirit. We energise, empower and support our customers in their efforts to implement circular strategies. Open and ongoing dialogue is an essential part of this process. There is still so much to learn. Whether through events such as Future Resources or here in this magazine, we aim to create a platform for sharing successful ideas and

innovations for the circular economy. At this point, I would like to thank you, Mathis, for your involvement in these efforts.

Mathis Wackernagel: I have been dealing with the issue of overshoot and resource security for many years now, and what I have learnt is that we need to find approaches that generate motivation rather than fear of scarcity. We want to demonstrate that building resource security creates value. No one would willingly throw out of the window so why don't we treat our resources with the same care? The better we understand the concept of ecological overshoot, the more effectively we can position ourselves as companies, cities and countries. That's good news – for us and for our planet.

READY FOR RECYCLING



Bringing a whole new meaning to ‘looping the loop’, the Lufthansa Group has teamed up with Interzero Consulting to explore ways of reducing cabin waste and managing packaging as part of the circular economy. It’s a green light for more sustainable waste management in aviation.

From modernising its fleet of aircraft to using alternative fuels – known as sustainable aviation fuels (SAFs) – the Lufthansa Group is investing in the sustainable transformation of the aviation sector. Under the slogan #MakeChangeFly, the company has set itself ambitious climate targets and aims to become carbon-neutral by 2050. The circular economy is also a key element of its overall sustainability strategy. “We want to make our passenger airline flights as resource-efficient as possible,” says Manuel Henle, who is responsible for Sustainability Onboard & Lounges at the Lufthansa Group. “Taking our lead from the EU waste hierarchy, we’re therefore looking closely at ways to avoid cabin waste, and how to reuse or recycle valuable materials. Our first focus is on single-use plastic and aluminium packaging. We either want to discontinue its use, replace it with more sustainable materials, or make sure it can be recycled.”

Putting packaging through its paces

Even small changes can have a significant impact, as demonstrated by the packaging for children’s toys: simply removing the plastic wrapper has enabled SWISS, a Lufthansa Group airline, to save 500 kg of plastic annually. In 2024, SWISS commissioned a team of consultants from Interzero to explore ways to maximise existing optimisation potential while complying with new legal requirements under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR). The first step was to analyse the recyclability of

selected packaging and evaluate it against the internationally recognised ‘Made for Recycling’ standard. The Interzero experts then developed actionable recommendations for sustainable waste management and closed-loop models, ranging from PPWR-compliant packaging design to efficient disposal methods.

Henle: “The expert advice we received here was instrumental in helping us to understand our various material streams, so we could then go on to develop specific solutions step by step.” One example: multi-material towelette packaging failed the recyclability analysis and will now be replaced by a mono-plastic solution. Lufthansa Group will now be taking the same approach to review and optimise all of its packaging. There are some limits, however. “For example, our aluminium casserole dishes for hot meals are highly recyclable according to the analysis,” Henle explains. “But we can’t actually recycle them, because this kind of cabin waste is currently subject to specific legal regulations. For now, this means that closed-loop resource management remains limited within our group. After all, even in the case of the aluminium dishes, we’re talking about a potential annual recycling volume equivalent to 13 Eiffel Towers.”

Greater transparency through digitalisation

Despite legal restrictions and the challenges presented by limited options for collection and sorting in aircraft cabins, the Lufthansa Group

Approaches to meeting the LHG single-use waste reduction target



Expanding
recyclability



Optimising
waste streams



Evaluating
circular products

is forging ahead with the implementation of its waste strategy. “We’ve already managed to discontinue, replace or improve the recyclability of no fewer than a third of the items we analysed and most of the quantities involved.” One example is the introduction of a tray tracker that automatically records waste volumes. The important data provided by this tracker helps to ensure loading is based on demand and avoids the kind of oversupply that leads to food waste. Overall, a stronger focus on the digitalisation of waste tracking will help to improve transparency and ensure a more effective, data-driven approach to waste management.

From a recycling guide to improving waste sorting in the cabin, to re-use projects and trolley upcycling – circular ideas have truly taken off across Lufthansa Group airlines. It’s a green light for more sustainable waste management in aviation. Henle: “I’m very proud of the way we’re promoting the topic of sustainability, and it’s being put into practice by everyone, from our technicians and cabin crew to our pilots.”

It’s great to see that Lufthansa Group has realised the potential offered by the closed-loop economy and is using Interzero’s expertise in a systematic approach to designing more recyclable packaging. Although some adjustments may seem small on their own, they soon add up.

Carolin Kollig
Head of Circular Solutions & Consulting, Interzero



EPR: NEW RULES – NEW OPPORTUNITIES

As it moves towards a circular economy, the EU is tightening regulations for manufacturers and distributors. What should businesses be preparing for? For example, how can companies ensure they comply with the new EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR)? In this article, we have a look at the key facts.

Extended producer responsibility – a backgrounder

The Green Deal has charted the course, and Europe intends to become climate-neutral by 2050. To achieve this goal, the EU is calling for a sustainable closed-loop economy that handles resources efficiently. A key legislative instrument – extended producer responsibility (EPR) – is playing an important role in this context: its aim is to minimise the environmental impact of products and packaging, from design to take-back and recycling.

Who needs to take action?

The provisions of the EPR affect all actors who market products in the EU – whether as a manufacturer, producer, (online) retailer or importer. Strict regulations are already in place for the material streams of packaging, electrical appliances and batteries. As of 2025, textiles are now also subject to an EU-wide separate collection rule.

Companies now need to determine how they are affected by the PPWR. This includes obligations to ensure the recyclability for all packaging and to use recycled content in plastic packaging. While some details may still need clarification – forewarned is forearmed!



Anna Kupferschmitt
Director of European Policy and Communications,
Allianz Verpackung und Umwelt e.V.

What are the obligations for companies – in Germany, for example?

In short: more transparency, less environmental impact. The rules applicable to distributors under the EPR policy include the following:

- **EPR registration:** Businesses must register with the relevant national authorities so that the origin and distribution channels of their products and packaging can be properly traced. In Germany, for example, the EPR number for packaging corresponds to the LUCID registration number recorded with the Central Agency Packaging Register (ZSVR).
- **Cooperation with take-back systems and waste management companies:** Distributors are responsible for the entire lifecycle of their products and packaging. Specifically, this means that they also bear the costs of take-back, sorting and recycling. In the case of sales packaging, this is regulated in Germany through participation in a dual system.
- **Reporting duties:** Companies must regularly report the quantities placed on the market to the relevant authorities and systems. Depending on the country, these reports must be submitted on an annual, quarterly or even monthly basis.

Packaging in the spotlight: what's new in the PPWR?

The Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR), which entered into force in early 2025, is an EU regulation that sets new and uniform standards for EPR while formulating clear targets on waste, including packaging recyclability. In 2024, Interzero organised a roadshow in four major German cities to inform businesses about the new requirements. Key aspects include:

- **Recyclability:** From 2030 onwards, all packaging must be reusable or recyclable. Packaging with a recyclability rate below 70% may no longer be placed on the market.
- **Targets for recycled content:** From 2030 onwards, the EU will impose minimum targets for the use of post-consumer recycled (PCR) materials in plastic packaging.
- **Mandatory labelling:** To simplify waste separation, disposal and recycling, standardised labelling requirements will be introduced for packaging.
- **Eco-fee modulation:** The fees payable within EPR systems will be more closely aligned with ecological criteria. Accordingly, fees charged for licensing or disposal will be inversely proportional to packaging recyclability.



The partnership with Interzero offers us the opportunity to acquire an environmentally friendly packaging solution that complies with the latest legal requirements. As a result, ETERNA was able to save 683 tonnes of recyclables and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 63,719 kg in 2023 alone.

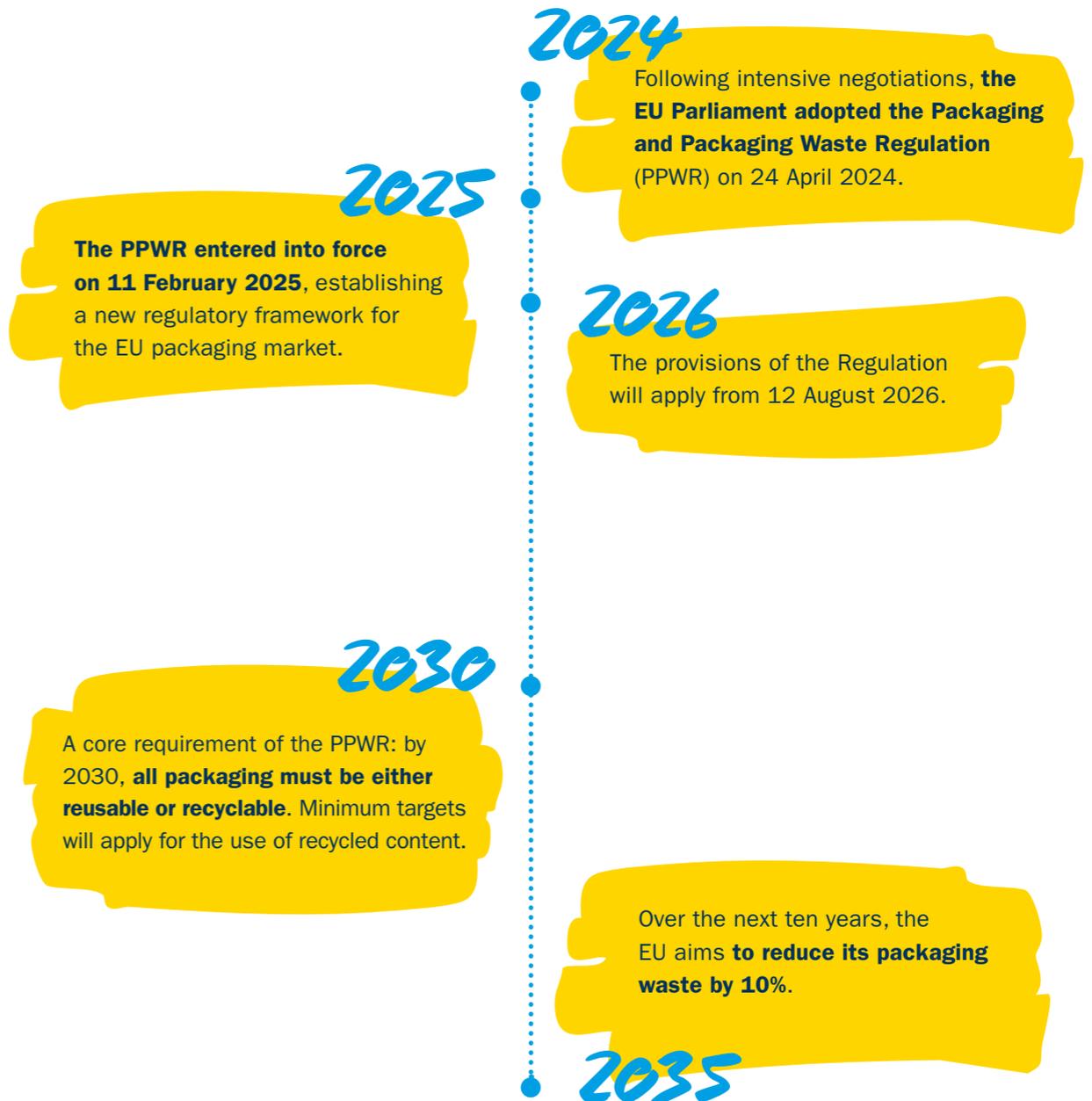
Thomas Sterl
CSR Manager, ETERNA

International aspects

Considerable effort has been made to harmonise packaging legislation within the EU. Nevertheless, regulations – and therefore compliance requirements – may still differ from one EU country to another, such as in terms of packaging licensing,

existing eco-modulation models or specific requirements for packaging labelling. As a leading EPR service provider, Interzero helps its customers to stay on top of these developments and remain compliant with national regulations.

PPWR AT A GLANCE: KEY EVENTS AND DEADLINES



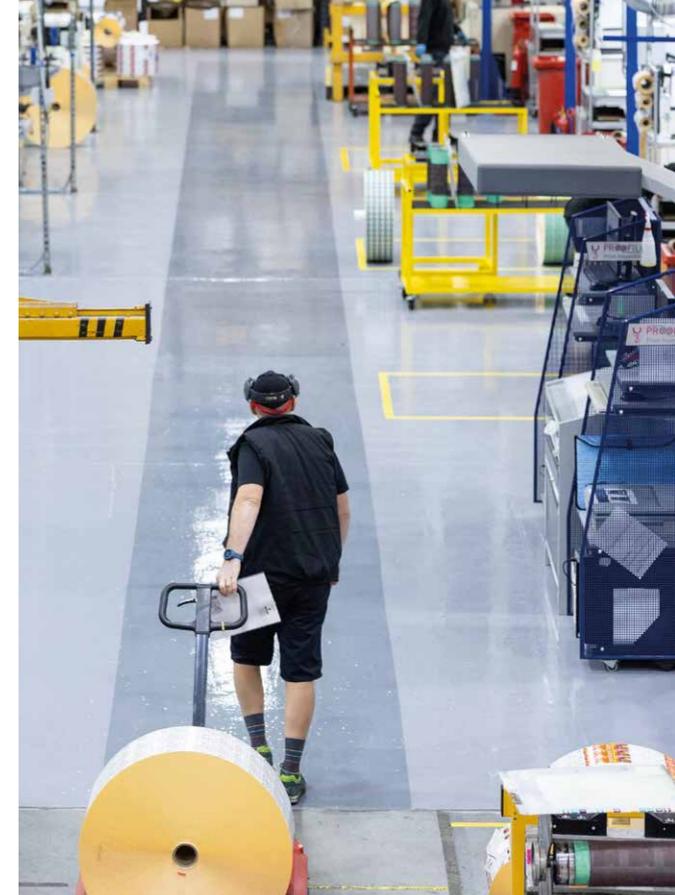
PLASTICS IN THE LOOP: THINK BIGGER!



A milestone on the way to zero waste: In summer 2024, Interzero and packaging manufacturer Coveris entered into a strategic partnership to close the loop for plastics. Used plastic film is now being recycled on a large scale – and turned into new, sustainable packaging.

The clock is ticking. From 2030 onwards, all plastic packaging must include a minimum proportion of recycled content, as mandated by the EU Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation (PPWR). Good news for climate action and resource conservation, but a challenge for manufacturers: how can they ensure continuous access to an adequate volume of recycled raw materials at a uniform level of quality?

Together, Coveris and Interzero are showing how this can be done. With its ReCover product line, Coveris had already made significant progress towards a closed-loop system. The partnership with Interzero, as an international supplier of raw materials, now enables the scaling-up of these technical innovations. The materials collected and sorted by Interzero are mechanically recycled at ReCover plants, and turned into high-quality recyclates. These materials are then used as feedstock for packaging production, contributing to a sustainable, closed-loop economy.



CREATING GENUINE CLOSED-LOOP SOLUTIONS TOGETHER

Interview: Philipp Niehues, Business Development Director ReCover, Coveris



How does the partnership with Interzero support the Coveris 'no waste' vision?

As a provider of industrial and food-grade packaging solutions, we already focused our efforts on integrating sustainable materials with high proportions of post-consumer recycled plastics (PCR) into our products. Indeed, many of our industrial customers already use packaging containing up to 80% PCR. Thanks to the partnership with Interzero, we are

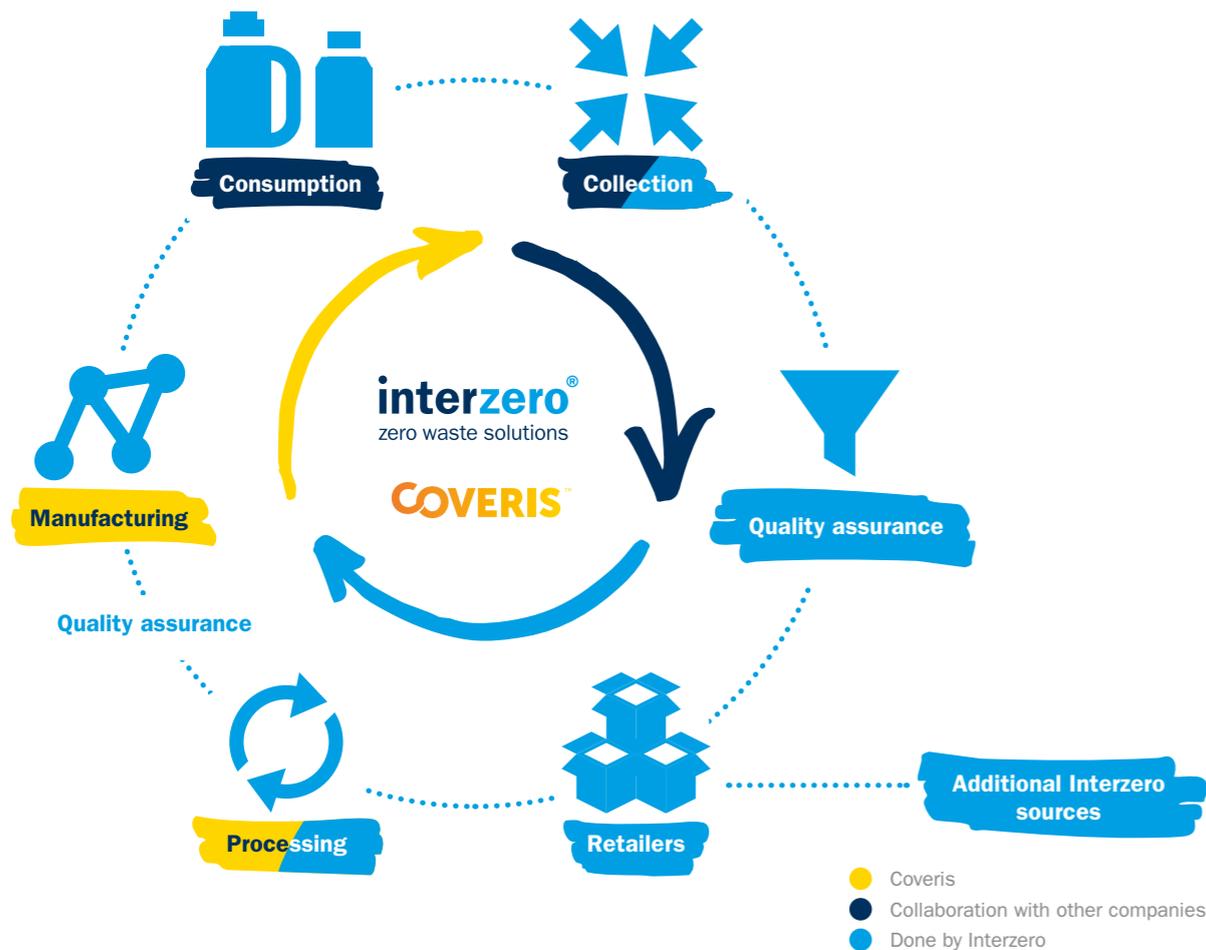
now aiming to close this loop even further by offering genuine closed-loop solutions. Our customers will have the opportunity to return their transport packaging waste to us, so it can be used in new customer products. Together, we are working to build a more sustainable value chain, reduce waste and turn our 'no waste' philosophy into real-world actions.

What does each partner bring to the table?

Being able to offer these kinds of solutions is, if nothing else, a logistical challenge – and this is where Interzero comes in. Coveris has already established plastic film recycling capacity in the UK and is now working to expand this infrastructure within the EU. We are seeing strong demand for high-quality recycled materials for plastic film. Thanks to its long-standing partnership with Interzero, Coveris has secured access to large quantities of high-quality plastic film waste as a raw material, ensuring a constant and sustainable supply of recycled materials.

What starting materials are suitable for the closed-loop production process at Coveris?

At the moment, we're concentrating on high-quality PCR materials from back-of-the-store waste streams. These offer us the best starting point for producing high-quality recycled plastic films. In the medium term, however, plastic film waste from LWP plants will become more important. To ensure we can return these materials efficiently to the loop, we are investing in specific kinds of new technologies that will enable high-quality processing into top-grade pellets. We also want to work with Interzero to ensure a continuous process of knowledge transfer and develop additional waste streams. This lets us expand the availability of sustainable raw materials for the packaging industry and develop innovative recycling solutions.



The partnership between Coveris and Interzero is helping to secure raw materials and reduce carbon emissions, while also ensuring compliance with the new legal standards for recycled content. It's a perfect match for the circular economy.

Dr Richard von Goetze
Director Key Accounts, Interzero

Where are the recycled materials from your ReCover plants now being used – and what level of raw material demand do you expect to see over the next few years?

Key applications at the moment include shrink tubing and covers for securely protecting pallet loads. Powerstretch films are also important, as they offer a characteristically high puncture resistance and stability, while requiring less material to produce. We also offer a fully recyclable solution for multi-pack products with Duralite™ R, our multiple award-winning range of shrink films. Coveris currently processes around 120,000 tonnes of LDPE pellets every year, with a growing proportion of recycled material. Over the next three years, we expect annual demand for recycled LDPE to rise to about 50,000 tonnes. The large proportion of recycled materials in these packaging solutions is driving a sustainable and resource-efficient packaging strategy that does not compromise on quality or performance.

THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN E-COMMERCE



MAKING SUSTAINABLE BUYING DECISIONS EASIER

A conversation with Frank Schmähling, CEO of memo AG



Committed to tackling climate change and conserving resources, the memo online shop ships its eco-friendly products in reusable packaging made from recycled plastic. This pioneering 'memo Box' packaging system won a 2025 German Product Sustainability Award.

E-commerce is booming – and generating mountains of packaging waste in the process. According to the German Environmental Agency, private households in Germany consumed around 105 kilograms of paper per capita in 2023 alone. More and more shipping cartons are ending up in waste management systems and are often discarded after just one use. Based in Greußenheim near Würzburg, memo AG proves that logistics can be more sustainable by offering customers the option to ship their goods in the company's own reusable 'memo Box' – at no extra cost.

These durable containers can be reused up to a hundred times and are made from a recycled plastic called Procyclen – a high-quality, customizable recompound manufactured by Interzero using post-consumer materials. Unsurprisingly, the 'memo Box' won a 2025 German Product Sustainability Award in the Resources category for its pioneering combination of reusability and modern recycles to deliver goods in a less environmentally harmful way.

For the past 35 years, memo AG has been a leading mail-order and online retail company offering sustainable office and everyday products. What role does the circular economy play in your business?

Enabling and simplifying sustainable buying decisions has been our mission ever since the company was founded in 1990. That's why circular thinking is deeply embedded in our structure. Every item in our range is tested according to strict environmental and social criteria – including a focus on products made from recycled raw materials and those that can be easily separated for recycling. As an online retailer, we also aim to close the loop when it comes to returns. We promptly inspect returned goods, refurbish them where necessary, and return around 95% to the market.

Sustainable shopping needs green logistics, and you recently received a 2025 German Product Sustainability Award for your returnable packaging system. How does the 'memo Box' work?

As far as we know, we are currently the only business dispatching goods with our own functional returnable packaging system – effectively creating our own closed loop. Our customers receive their orders in boxes made from recycled cardboard or can opt for our returnable box made from recycled plastics at no additional cost. The 'memo Box' is a shipping and collection box rolled into one; customers can return any used items and packaging materials to us, and we will then arrange for them to be recycled professionally.

Why did you decide to use the recycled plastic Procyclen – and how does that affect your environmental performance?

Part of our work with Interzero involves operating within the dual system framework, and we've also received plenty of advice on how to use recycled materials. We were impressed by the fact that Procyclen is made from 100% household waste and meets the strict criteria of the 'Blue Angel' ecolabel. Using Procyclen saves around 30% of greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional plastic during production alone. Shipping containers like these also need to take a lot of punishment – and this material can definitely do that. To date, the first 'memo Boxes' have completed 250 cycles, enabling us to save around 28 tonnes of cardboard in 2023. All of this means that anyone ordering their goods in a 'memo Box' is contributing directly to better climate action and resource protection.

The 'memo Box' shows that recycled plastics such as Procyclen now meet the highest technical and logistical requirements.

Dr Adam Worsztynowicz
Sales Manager, Interzero

PRESERVING FLAVOUR AND THE PLANET

One step ahead: innovative coffee packaging shows where the 'Design for Recycling' journey can lead. As well as being made from mono PP, the plastic pouch does not require any adhesive. We designed this clever little bag in collaboration with film manufacturer POLIFILM and packaging processor Bischof+Klein.



The challenge
When it comes to packaging, coffee poses major technical challenges. While the gases released after roasting must be able to escape through built-in valves, customers also expect packaging to be ever more sustainable – especially for globally traded products such as coffee.



The material
The pouch and valve are made from polypropylene (PP) to ensure maximum material purity and recyclability. The printed colours can be removed during the recycling process to create white recycle.

The seal
The 'Made for Recycling' seal is recognised worldwide as the testing standard for the recyclability of packaging. The presence of this seal on the packaging demonstrates the product's commitment to a sustainable circular economy.

The technology
Among other things, packaging of this kind requires different melting points during the manufacturing process. This is the first time a co-extruded film with the desired properties has been produced in a single process step.



The makers
In true Interzero style, this innovative all-in-one PP solution was created in collaboration with experts from 'Made for Recycling', film manufacturer POLIFILM and packaging processor Bischof+Klein.

The innovation
For a long time, it was standard practice to use up to five different materials for the films and valve. After switching to mono-materials, we have now reached the next milestone by making this coffee bag from plastic without any adhesive at all.

We focus on closing material loops and Design4Recycling to ensure that we can use the advantages of plastic in a sustainable way. Our innovation eliminates an entire production step to save our customers carbon, time and money.

Susanne Zobel-Reusch
Head of Business Development, POLIFILM Performance Films GmbH

WELL SORTED IS HALF RECYCLED

‘Germany’s sorting it out. Are you?’ In June 2024, this slogan started the largest nationwide partner campaign to date to raise awareness about the right way to sort waste. This was the first time that the dual systems, waste advice agencies, retailers and waste management companies had worked together to encourage widespread public participation.

Every year, around 9 million tonnes of packaging waste are generated by private households in Germany – more than 100 kg per capita. How people handle these recyclable materials has a significant impact on our environment and society. After all, packaging waste must be properly separated before it can be recycled and returned to the production loop as a raw material. The message is clear: waste sorting works – and we can all take a few seconds to help protect the climate and our resources. While many households are on board, there is still room for improvement. In some cases, mis-sorting into the yellow bin is actually getting worse, not better. All of which means we need effective ways to keep people informed and motivated, and to help change sorting habits over the long term.

These were the goals set by the ‘Waste separation works!’ initiative from the dual systems for its 2024 campaign ‘Germany’s sorting it out. Are you?’, with significant support from Interzero. The campaign proved popular with the public and help was also volunteered by no fewer than 200 of Germany’s 400 waste management regions. The dual systems, waste advice agencies, waste management companies and food retail partners – EDEKA, Netto Marken-Discount and

Netto Germany – all worked together to explain the right ways to sort waste. Local waste advisors, mayors and county commissioners also supported



Why should we sort, how should we sort – and what happens to the recyclables afterwards? Time and again, these are the questions we have to answer. So we’re very happy to support the campaigns run by the ‘Waste separation works’ initiative.

Nicole Jäger
Customer Advice Agency, Düren

9,000,000 t

Annual packaging waste volumes in Germany

the campaign as ‘Sorting Ambassadors’ to drive home the message among their communities. Some were also happy to be featured on campaign posters and on the radio to provide advice on proper waste sorting. Live events with the three-metre-tall XXL packaging props attracted plenty of attention, as did a wide range of social media and PR activities. The partner campaign, which reached around 40 million people across Germany, was supported by then Federal Environment Minister Steffi Lemke.

The dual systems will continue this kind of targeted dialogue with the public in the future, with the aim of improving the quality of sorted collections. In regions where mis-sorting is a significant problem, practical support is also planned, for example, more extensive checks of yellow bins on collection days. After all, waste separation works – and the more households that join in, the better this valuable packaging resource can be kept in the loop.



It’s a great idea. The campaign ‘Germany’s sorting it out. Are you?’ lets us talk directly to citizens and draw their attention to the ever-important topic of properly separating their waste.

Peter Krause
Head of Municipal Logistics, Abfallwirtschaft und Stadtreinigung Freiburg GmbH



LESS IS MORE

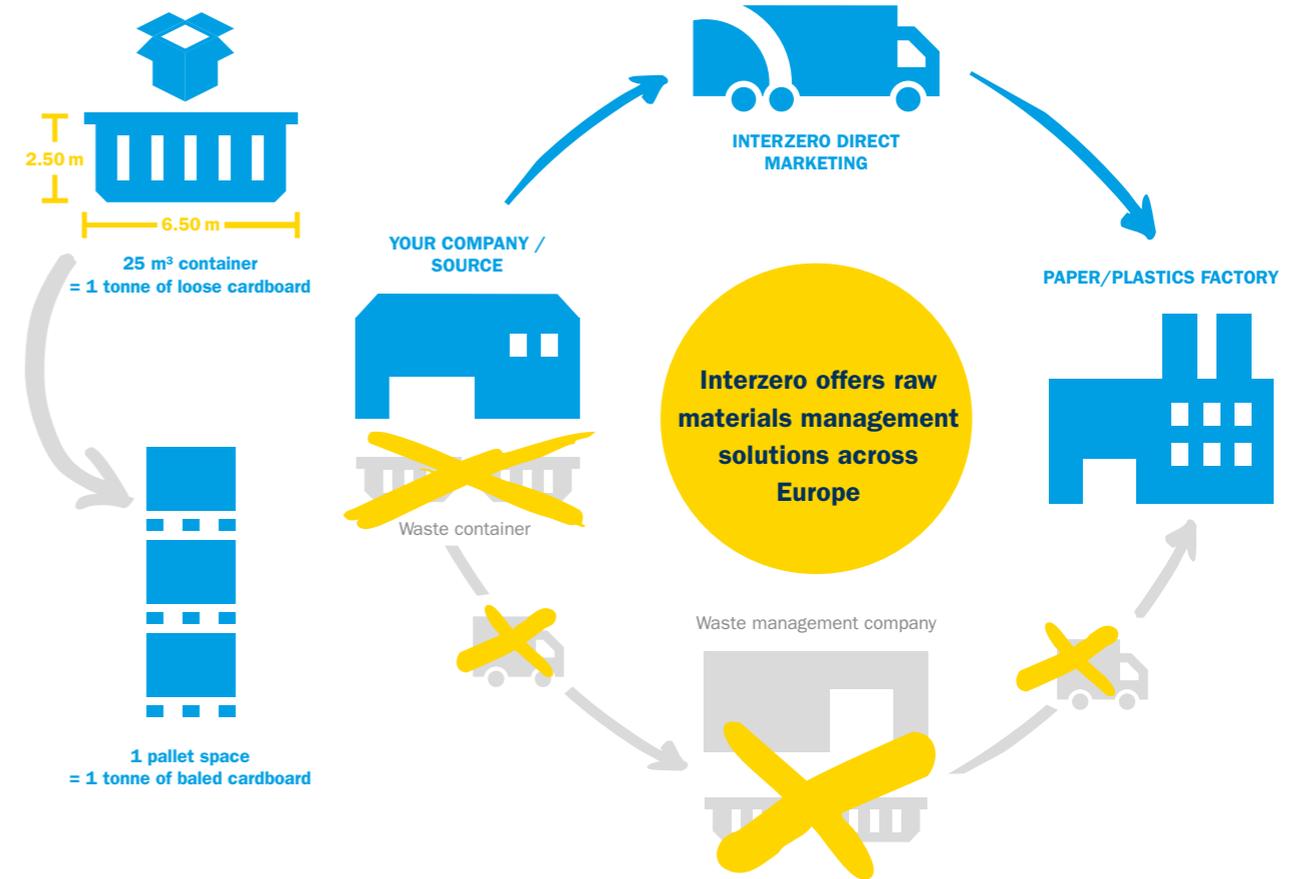
Disposing of packaging waste is a challenge that many companies face on a daily basis. Britta von Selchow, Managing Director of Interzero Baler Solutions, explains how businesses can use baling presses to save space, cut costs and tackle climate change.

How can baling presses contribute to sustainable raw materials management?

Put simply, we use these presses to ‘squash’ the air out of the waste, which lets us compress its volume by about 90%. The waste takes up less space and requires fewer carbon-intensive truckloads to transport it to the recycling depot – making the whole waste management process more efficient. Considering that up to 30% of today’s closed-loop costs can often be attributed to logistics, this marks an important step towards a successful circular economy.

Who would benefit from this solution?

Everyone from manufacturers to retailers and hospitals: baling presses can be used wherever a lot of packaging waste needs to be managed in limited space. Typically, this includes cardboard boxes, plastic wrap and polystyrene packaging – but we can also provide technical solutions for textiles, for example, if required.



What would the changeover mean for a company’s day-to-day business processes?

The machines are set up exactly where the waste is produced. This means you can eliminate large collection containers outside, reducing transport times and workloads. Once compressed, the space-saving bales can be stacked until Interzero collects them for recycling. With their smart IoT functionality, the machines can even trigger a pick up automatically.

So, at the end of the day, what are the benefits of baling waste?

By getting rid of the need for container logistics, businesses can cut costs and reduce their carbon footprint. They also get compensated for their waste shipments – so they’re almost like raw materials suppliers. Together with our clients, we ensure that materials are returned to the production loop – thereby conserving valuable resources.

We’ve made huge savings in terms of effort required by turning a waste dump into a valuable storage area – and the waste pays its way instead of running up costs.

Stefan Kühn

Owner of the EURONICS XXL stores in Wedel and Soltau

NAVIGATING THE LABYRINTH OF DATA



Transparent ESG reporting? It's easier than you might think: Italian food producer Padania Alimenti has used Interzero's Environmental Sustainability Dashboard to streamline the collection and analysis of its sustainability data, positioning itself favourably to comply with the latest requirements of the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), says Luigi Ghisini, President of Padania Alimenti.

What sets your company apart – and what challenges do you face in terms of sustainability?

Padania Alimenti has a long tradition of producing fresh milk and dairy products in Italy. Quality and innovation have always been central to our mission. Like many other businesses, we are now faced with the challenge of making production as sustainable as possible while embedding ESG criteria into our business model. To tackle this challenge, we look at our entire supply chain, focusing primarily on key areas such as animal welfare, sustainable milk production and supplier partnerships.

How do you proceed in implementing the new CSRD requirements?

We are currently establishing the baseline for our company in accordance with CSRD requirements, emphasising Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions in particular. Once we have completed the analysis, the next step is to define specific targets and make them available to the public. In this process, we pursue a comprehensive approach, engaging our suppliers in environmental performance monitoring programmes, improving the energy efficiency of our production facilities, and optimising packaging design to make our products more sustainable and reduce waste.

What is the role of Interzero's Environmental Sustainability Dashboard?

We have come to know Interzero as an expert partner who truly understands the complexity of our business and knows what it takes to integrate sustainability into our operations. The Environmental Sustainability Dashboard (ESD) is a perfect match for our needs, serving now as an indispensable tool in transitioning to a more sustainable business model. It enables us to monitor, analyse and improve our performance. The Dashboard gives us a clear picture of our sustainability status, helps us define key performance indicators (KPIs) and streamlines data entry. This allows us to focus on making improvements instead of being bogged down by manual calculations and fragmented data.

What is your recipe for success for implementing the CSRD on time?

We have set out a detailed roadmap together with Interzero. Although there is still work to be done, we are confident that we will be able to publish a fully CSRD-compliant sustainability report in 2026. It is crucial to embark on this challenging journey at an early stage and embrace CSRD as an opportunity, as the required data and detailed analysis can be leveraged to deliver savings – especially if you approach the process focusing on substance instead of viewing it simply as a box-ticking exercise.

Transparency is a must

The **Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD)** significantly changes the sustainability reporting requirements for companies as sustainability reporting

must now be based on comparable standards, be integrated into the management report and be subject to external audits, among other things.

CLIMATE ACTION IS A TEAM SPORT

Whether playing sport or tackling climate change and protecting resources, lasting success can only be achieved through a strong team. In this spirit, Interzero deepened its partnership with ALBA BERLIN in 2024 to ensure that it now supports every part of the basketball club.

True all-rounders: After many years as the main sponsor and environmental partner of the men's team and sponsor of the youth division at ALBA BERLIN, Interzero became a partner of the women's team for the first time in the 2024–25 season. "Climate action is a team sport – and one that needs total commitment", said Dr Axel Schweitzer, Chairman of Interzero and President of ALBA BERLIN. "This spirit unites Interzero with a club whose top-tier men's and women's teams not only excel in sport but also make a valuable contribution to society by encouraging broader participation in sport in innovative and sustainable ways."

Sporting, social and environmental success: Even off the basketball court, ALBA BERLIN and Interzero continue to work together for greater sustainability. One example is the 'Donate a phone, give someone a future' campaign, which once again ran successfully during the 2024–25 season. It gave fans the opportunity to drop off their used smartphones in special collection boxes at all home games for the men's and women's teams. Interzero professionally refurbishes the used devices, with all resale proceeds going towards ALBA JUGEND's community work with young people. This closes the loop – and could even help discover the next generation of talented young professional athletes.

Scoring points for the environment:

The joint 'Donate a phone, give someone a future' campaign collected 702 used smartphones during the 2023–24 season. By refurbishing these devices, ALBA BERLIN and Interzero saved 8,700 kg of greenhouse gas emissions and 2,100 kg of primary resources, and raised EUR 3,807.57 to support the club's community youth work.



Three questions for ...

Svenja Brunckhorst, 3x3 basketball Olympic champion and team manager of the women's and girls' teams at ALBA BERLIN since September 2024.

Svenja, you won the gold medal at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris – and inspired a generation to take up women's basketball. What does it take to turn hype into a lasting success story?

The attention around the Olympics is a huge opportunity for the entire sport. But when we hear that girls are getting excited about basketball, we need to make sure they have opportunities to play – and we also need to create more professional structures in women's basketball. Among other things, we need more qualified coaches and training sessions in locations beyond just school sports halls. ALBA BERLIN has been committed to equal opportunities in sport and sustainable youth development for years now, and we can build on that.

What does sustainability mean in sport – and for you personally?

Encouraging participation in sport – regardless of background or social status – makes a big difference to society. Sport is about much more than just peak performance. It also teaches you a lot about fair play and responsibility – for yourself, your team and your environment. Those are values that matter to me personally.

Germany is hosting some important women's basketball events in the near future, with both the European Championships and World Cup set to take place here in 2025 and 2026. What kind of message do you want the country to send?

I hope we can make the most of our home advantage – and spark a financial rethink in women's sport by delivering exciting tournaments. Dedicated partners like Interzero are not just valuable for ALBA BERLIN. Together, we can show what winning truly means, both on the court and in terms of sustainability.

GUIDING US ON THE WAY TO A WORLD WITHOUT WASTE

By adopting an international, digital and holistic outlook, the Interzero Group is committed to shaping the circular economy of the future – and to growing across borders and business units. What makes the company so unique, and what kind of culture is needed to make zero-waste thinking a reality? We spoke to CEO Jan Kroker to find out more.

Mr Kroker, you've been responsible for Interzero's ongoing strategic development since January 2025. How are you setting a course for the future?

At the Interzero Group, we are all focused on one shared goal – a vision of a world without waste where raw materials are kept in a closed loop for as long as possible. We are modernising our structures, digitalising our processes and adopting an even more international focus to ensure we can keep moving towards this goal and create a truly sustainable circular economy. A lot of things are moving, changing and coming together in new ways – which makes it more important than ever to work as a team and be aware of the DNA that sets Interzero apart.

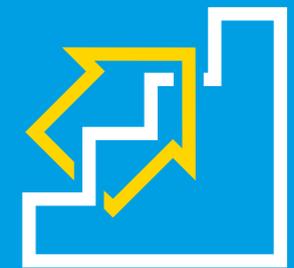


Jan Kroker
CEO

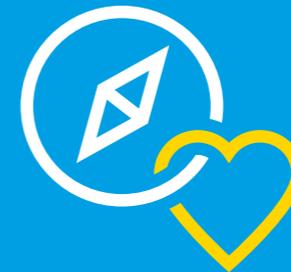
Jan Kroker (born 1977) has been responsible for the Europe-wide business of circular solutions provider Interzero in the role of CEO since January 2025. He previously headed the Interzero Plastics Recycling (IPR) division from 2023 and was then appointed to the Interzero Holding Executive Management. Before joining Interzero, Jan Kroker held roles in the oilfield service industry with KCA Deutag in Russia and in the chemicals industry with BASF. He began his professional career as an officer in the German Army.



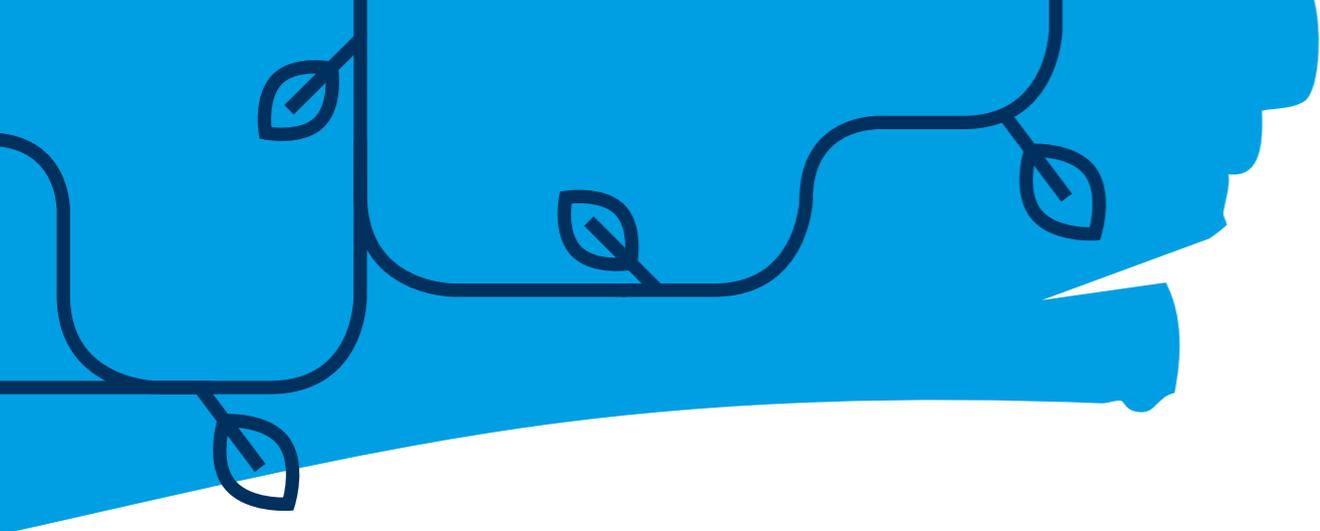
**We are all in
as one team**



**We get better
every day**



**We stay
humble**



The values of team spirit, dedication, continuous improvement, honesty and humility are our compass as we seek to become a leading international player in the circular economy.

Jan Kroker
CEO, Interzero

Let's pick an example: what do you personally associate with the statement "We stay humble" – and how do you put it into practice in your leadership role?

"The mission, the team and me" is a motto that is particularly important to me. The mission – in our case, "one world, zero waste" – always comes first. Then we have our team. For me, leadership means supporting the team to achieve the best possible results and focusing on the mission and the people before thinking about your own interests.

What role do the redefined Interzero values play in this process?

The values of team spirit, dedication, continuous improvement, honesty and humility are our compass as we seek to become a leading international player in the circular economy. They guide us in our decision-making, conduct and future collaborations, both internally and externally. They also foster trust and strengthen our organisation by providing a standard for all of our stakeholders – employees, customers and partners – to follow.

How can shared values boost the company's competitive positioning?

Our corporate culture is our key differentiator in the market – and a powerful strategic lever. It affects how effectively and innovatively we can achieve our goals and how well we adapt to change. Our values hold the key to a more sustainable future, as they encourage everyone involved to think differently and help solve environmental, social and economic challenges in a holistic way. They build trust and strengthen our organisation.



Visit Interzero here. Scan now to watch videos and find out more!

IMPRINT

Publisher

Interzero Holding GmbH & Co. KG
Lützowstraße 105
10785 Berlin
Deutschland
www.interzero.de/en

Sustainability contact

Sybilla Merian
sybilla.merian@interzero.de
www.interzero.de/en/sustainability

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Interzero Holding GmbH & Co. KG
Lützowstraße 105
10785 Berlin
Germany
www.interzero.de/en
sustainability@interzero.de

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